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Youth can help



U. S. Department of Agriculture
AIS—51, April 1946



Youth Are Available Again

Victory Farm Volunteers—city and town boys and girls—are again being recruited to help the Nation meet the food emergency. Do you need more help on your farm this year? If so, perhaps youth is the answer to your problem.

The farm-labor shortage in many areas of the Nation is just about as serious as it was in war time. And the need for food is greater. Judging by the job VFV's did in producing more food to win the war, they can be counted on to help produce more food to clinch the peace.

More than ever before, youth and their parents know the importance of food and other farm products. They realize too that cooperation, which gave us a military victory, is the only way to solve our problems in 1946.

Your county agricultural agent, representing the extension service of your State agricultural college, is again responsible for the youth program in your county. The 1946 program—including recruitment, placement, and supervision—is similar to last year's. Information about getting youth to help on your farm can be obtained from the county agent or his farm-labor assistant.



What Youth Can Do

VFV boys and girls are carefully selected by a representative of the agricultural extension service. They are chosen because they are reliable, physically fit, and eager to work.

Although some farmers hesitated to take boys at the beginning of the farm-labor shortage, experience showed them that when the right boy is selected and given careful instructions after he gets to the farm he makes a good "hired man." Most of the farmers who used city youth last year were satisfied with their work and asked for them again.

During the war, youth who came to live in the farm home learned to do nearly every farm job. They were soon taught to feed livestock, milk cows, harness horses, cultivate crops, drive tractors, and harvest grain and hay—to mention a few of the jobs they can do.

Youth are also available to farmers who need groups of workers transported daily from town or camps. These VFV's will continue to play a big part in harvesting fruits, vegetables, and fiber crops.



VFV's Make Friends For Agriculture

In employing town boys and girls as farm help, farmers are not only solving their labor problems of today but are building for the future.

No one knows how long there will be a labor shortage on the farm. It's a fairly sure bet that farm manpower will remain hard to get for some time. By using city youth in 1946, farmers are training labor for next year and the next. Boys and girls are a good source of labor for peak-harvest seasons, and farmers can well afford to keep in contact with this supply.

When boys and girls go to the farm to live, they learn first-hand the hard work it takes to produce food. When they go home they have new friends among the farm people they meet and a better knowledge of farm problems and production costs.

Understanding between rural and urban people promises much for peace and progress within our Nation. Without it, farmers cannot expect town people to pull with them in making progress for agriculture. Without it, the misunderstandings that already exist between labor and industry and agriculture might become wider. Victory Farm Volunteers help to bring city and farm closer together.



Public Schools Are Cooperating

Public schools and the United States Office of Education are cooperating with the agricultural extension service in recruiting Victory Farm Volunteers. The assistance of schools is important in making the program successful. Their support assures parents that farm experience has a value to youth. And their acquaintance with the boys and girls aids in selecting those best qualified for farm work.

Schools cooperate because they want to help farmers get labor to produce food and fiber. At the same time, school officials and teachers recognize that farm work is an excellent educational experience for youth. Doing a real job well is important learning for all boys and girls. Helping to produce food, at a time when food is in such great demand throughout the world, provides a real sense of achievement.

The war-time VFV's who did farm work in every State of the Nation derived this satisfaction from their food-production efforts. In 1946 youth will take the same pride in accomplishment. By hiring youth workers where they can ease the farm-labor shortage, farmers will cooperate in providing this worth-while experience for youth.

Farmers Can Help, Too

You can count on youth to do the job. But they need *your* help. Here are some of the things farmers can do:

1. Remember that the VFV is not an adult. Be patient while he learns.
2. Take time to explain each task.
3. Let the youth know what he is expected to do.
4. Give him a few days' breaking-in period. He won't be a seasoned worker at first.
5. Have a definite understanding about hours of work, wages, working conditions, time off, etc.
6. Guard against accidents. Work out a plan for providing accident insurance. A special VFV policy is available at low cost.

If the youth comes to live on your farm—

1. Make him feel like a member of the family.
2. Show him around the farm right away.
3. Take him with you to town, community meetings, social gatherings, church. Get him acquainted with the local 4-H Club.
4. Allow him regular time off for swimming, games, or other recreation.

If youth workers are transported to your farm daily—

1. Provide safe busses, cars, or trucks for transportation.
2. See that youth are supervised in the fields. They'll do more and better work that way.
3. If you don't do your own supervising, choose a supervisor who can get along with boys and girls.
4. Provide sanitary facilities and drinking water.

The VFV will not learn unless you are a good teacher. Following these four steps will help a lot:

1. Tell him why.
 2. Show him how.
 3. Be sure he knows.
 4. Put him on his own.
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VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS
Extension Farm-Labor Program
Washington, D. C.